



**Livestock and Seed Program
Audit, Review, and Compliance Branch
Quality System Audit Report**

AUDIT INFORMATION

Applicant Name:	Georgia Crop Improvement Association, Inc. (GCIA)
Est. Number:	N/A
Physical Address:	2425 South Milledge Ave.; Athens, GA 30605
Mailing Address:	Same
Contact & Title:	Terry Hollifield, Executive Director
E-mail Address:	gacrop@bellsouth.net
Phone Number:	706-542-2351
Auditor(s):	David J. Hildreth
Program:	USDA National Organic Program (NOP)
Audit Date(s):	May 9-11, 2007
Audit Identifier:	NP7129ACA
Action Required:	Yes
Audit Type:	Surveillance - Accreditation Renewal Audit
Audit Objective:	To verify continuing compliance to the audit criteria; to verify the implementation and effectiveness of the corrective actions to addressing the previous non-compliances.
Audit Criteria:	7 CFR Part 205, <i>National Organic Program; Final Rule</i> , dated December 21, 2000; Updated September 11, 2006.
Audit Scope:	GCIA's quality manual dated January 2007, including personnel, processes, procedures, facilities, and related records.
Location(s) Audited:	GCIA Office, Athens, GA; King's Delight, Gainesville, GA (Processor); and GAIA Gardens, Decatur, GA (Crops).

Georgia Crop Improvement Association (GCIA) Organic Certification Program was accredited as a certifying agent on April 29, 2002 to the National Organic Program (NOP) for crops, livestock, and processors/handlers. GCIA currently certifies 68 clients of which 31 are crops and 37 are processors/handlers. GCIA currently does not certify any livestock operations.

The accredited certifying agent (ACA) or the Program Manager conducts the initial application review and the Program Manager (Inspector) conducts the initial on-site evaluation and the file is sent to the Committee Members for review who will make the decision to approve or disapprove the client. The file is then sent back to the ACA who will make the final decision for certification or denial of the client and the client is notified and issued a certificate if approved.



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The audit included observations of two witness audits conducted by the Program Manager (Inspector) of GCIA. The operations for the inspections included crops and a processor/handler.

FINDINGS

Observations made, interviews conducted, and procedures and records reviewed verified that GCIA is currently operating in compliance to the audit criteria except as noted in the non-compliances below. Two non-compliances from the 2005 annual update were verified and found to be implemented and effective and therefore the non-compliances were cleared. Three non-compliances were identified during the audit.

NP6303BBA.NC1 – Major – Cleared

NP6303BBA.NC2 – Minor – Cleared

NP7129ACA.NC1 – NOP §205.403 (e)(2) states, “A copy of the on-site inspection report and any test results will be sent to the inspected operation by the certifying agent.” *The ACA and Program Manager stated that they do not send copies of the inspection report to the inspected operation.*

NP7129ACA.NC2 – NOP §205.501 (a)(6) states,” Conduct an annual performance evaluation of all persons who review applications for certification, perform on-site inspections, review certification documents, evaluate qualifications for certification, make recommendations concerning certification, or make certification decisions and implement measures to correct any deficiencies in certification services.” *There have been no annual performance evaluations completed for the committee members.*

NP7129ACA.NC3 – NOP §205.501 (11)(v) states, “Prevent conflict of interest by: Requiring all persons who review applications for certification, perform on-site inspections, review certification documents, evaluate qualifications for certification, make recommendations concerning certification, or make certification decisions and all parties connected to the certifying agent to complete an annual conflict of interest disclosure report.” *There were no annual conflict of interest disclosure reports for the committee members.*